

CLAIMS:

1. A graphics controller providing for flexible access to a graphics display device by a host, comprising:

an input bus for coupling to an output bus of the host;

an output bus for coupling to the graphics display device;

a video processing circuit having an input coupled to the input bus of the graphics controller and an output coupled to the output bus of the graphics controller; and

a bypass switching circuit adapted to switchably couple the input bus of the graphics controller to the output bus of the graphics controller so as to bypass said video processing circuit.

2. The graphics controller of claim 1, further comprising a camera interface for interfacing a camera to said video processing circuit.

VP071

3. The graphics controller of claim 1, wherein the graphics display device includes one or more LCD panels.
4. The graphics controller of claim 3, wherein the graphics display device includes a plurality of LCD panels, and wherein the graphics controller includes a panel select switch for selecting one of the panels to receive data from the output bus of the graphics controller.
5. The graphics controller of claim 4, further comprising a camera interface for interfacing a camera to said video processing circuit.
6. A method providing for flexible access to a graphics display device by a host, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing an input bus coupled to an output bus of the host;
 - providing an output bus coupled to the graphics display device;
 - providing a video processing circuit having an input coupled to the input bus of the graphics controller and an output coupled to the output bus of the graphics controller; and

VP071

switchably coupling the input bus of the graphics controller to the output bus of the graphics controller so as to bypass said video processing circuit.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of switchably coupling is directed by the host.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising obtaining video data from a video camera and providing said video data to the video processing circuit.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising providing one or more LCD panels in the graphics display device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein more than one LCD panel is provided in the graphics display device, the method further comprising selecting one of the panels to receive data from the output bus of the graphics controller.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising obtaining video data from a video camera and providing said video data to the video processing circuit.